NOTICE OF PROPOSED TAX INCREASE DAGGETT SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Daggett School District is proposing to increase its property tax revenue.

- **If the proposed budget is approved, this would be an increase of 9.58% above the Daggett School District property tax budgeted revenue for the prior year.**
- **The Daggett School District tax on a $150,000.00 residence would increase from $312.92 to $334.13 which is $21.20 per year.**
- **The Daggett School District tax on a $150,000.00 business would increase from $568.95 to $607.50 which is $38.55 per year.**

Daggett School District property tax revenue from new growth and other sources will increase from $839,090 to $919,453.

All concerned citizens are invited to a public hearing on the tax increase.

PUBLIC HEARING

Date/Time: August 13, 2008 6:00 P.M.
Location: Daggett School District Office Bldg.
196 West 200 North
Manila, Utah

To obtain more information regarding the tax increase, citizens may contact the Daggett School District at 435-784-3174.

Popular rural biz conference to be held in several venues

By Lezlee E. Whiting
Uintah Basin News Service

Sen. Bob Bennett's annual Rural Business Conference appears to have experienced some serious growing pains.

The annual two-day conference featuring keynote addresses delivered by nationally-known industry leaders, and timely, innovative workshops has become so successful it has outgrown the rural areas of the state it is intended to serve.

Bennett staffers have been traveling the state to meet with community and business leaders in small town Utah to discuss their needs and willingness to host a revamped rural business conference.

"The small businesses that we are trying to reach don't have the means of coming to us," said Larry Shepherd, Bennett's deputy state director. "If we keep going to the same location every year we are saying the same thing to the same people."

The conference brings together business and industry leaders, government officials, small business owners and entrepreneurs, providing a forum for sharing ideas, solving problems, and networking.

In the past, the Rural Business conferences have been held in Vernal, Richfield, Price, Moab, and Cedar City. These cities would continue to be the only venues to host the conference because smaller towns don't have the facilities to hold such an event.

That's why the senator wants to "make a shift" from the conference form of the past to create a new "mini-conference" with an abbreviated format to better target specific economic issues in smaller communities such as Delta, Kanab, Panguitch and Roosevelt. At the same time, the change will succeed in educating even more rural business men and women.

"Instead of gathering 500 people together, we will split it to get 60 to 80 people and end up reaching 1,000 people each year," Shepherd said. "While we recognize the amount of work involved, we also see it as a great benefit."

Duchesne County Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Irene Hansen said her office will do whatever it can to host one of Bennett's conferences.

"I feel confident that we could do a good job here," said Hansen at a specially-called meeting with Bennett staffers last week. "From our perspective we would be able to facilitate you here."

Staffers asked for specific topics to help local businesses deal with the unique issues they face in the Uintah Basin's booming oil and gas economy.

Duchesne County Commissioner Kent Peatross said he would like to see a presentation that focuses on how businesses can help their community, as well as understand the predicament that government is in.

"I don't know if our business community understands the challenges we are seeing as a county," said Peatross, adding that while assessed property valuations in Duchesne County rose by millions of dollars, new county revenue amounted to roughly $300,000. That amount can easily be consumed solely by increases in health insurance premiums for county employees, Peatross noted.

Whatever the final determination is as to who will deliver the keynote address and what the workshops will focus on, Hansen made it clear that Bennett and the Rural Utah Development Council can count on Duchesne County to accommodate them in their goal to bring more of the Rural Business Conference resources to rural areas.

"Everything does affect business. The sky's the limit when you are thinking about topics," Hansen said. "We can easily say we will move heaven and earth to accommodate you here."

Mixed-blood Utes petition for repeal or completion of UPA

Mixed-blood Uinta Utes who were terminated from federal recognition by the Ute Partition Act in 1954 are circulating petitions seeking to have the act repealed or completed.

The petitions call for the UPA to be repealed, which would allow the original 490 terminated individuals and their descendants to be federally recognized again and reclaim their American Indian identity. If that cannot be done, the petitioners are seeking to have the UPA completed, resulting in the termination of the entire Ute Tribe from federal protection, said Oranna B. Felter.

Felter is the lead plaintiff in a federal lawsuit against the U.S. government that seeks to overturn the UPA. Felter was 10 years old when Congress "forced termination on her and her people," she said. Of the 490 terminated mixed-bloods, 260 were children who did not have a vote in the termination.

"There is no proof anywhere that the mixed-blood Uintas ever 'voted' for their own termination," Felter said.

Felter said Curtis Ceespooch, chairman of the Ute Tribe Business Committee, choose not to support the repeal of the UPA at the National Congress of American Indians, held during the first part of June in Reno.

"All full-blood Ute tribal members need to blame your tribal council and not the terminated mixed-bloods," Felter said of the petition for completion of the UPA. "This could have been avoided. We will not be held hostage any longer to a congressional law that Curtis Cesspooch and the council support."

Felter's group handed out petitions at a meeting during late of June to everyone in attendance, and sent notices out of the date the petitions had to be returned for verification and recording. She said the target date was Monday, Aug. 4.

"But due the huge amount of petitions that are coming in every day, we have decided to extend the target date to Sept. 1," Felter said.

She said the extension is intended to give individuals who live out of state enough time to get their petitions turned in.

"I have had many calls from our members who were wondering how they would be able to get the petitions back before Aug. 1," Felter said.

The petitions can be signed any of the original 490 terminated mixed-blood Uintas still living. Heirs of terminated mixed-blood Uintas are also being asked to sign their ancestor's names to the petitions.

"We are asking Congress to restore the deceased to federal recognition so their heirs will be able to continue to inherit the rights of that person," Felter said. "We don't want the rights to die with our members, or to forget our ancestors who died with broken hearts and spirits because of an illegal termination."

Felter said people who are not terminated mixed-bloods have also been signing special "support petitions" on the group's behalf.

"This means a lot to all of us," she said.

Anyone with questions about the petitions can contact Felter at 435-722-3220 or by mail at P.O. Box 465, Fort Duchesne, UT 84026.

Felter said there will be no further deadline extensions for the petition. A meeting will be held after the Sept. 1 deadline to discuss the outcome of the petition drive.

Wildfire near Tabby now fully contained

The Wagstaff Fire, which burned east of Tabiona over the weekend, has been fully contained, according to state fire officials on Sunday.

The fire started Friday, just before 1 p.m. and consumed over 400 acres, all on private land. Officials have determined that lightning caused the fire, citing records which show strikes in the area before the blaze broke out.

After the fire made its initial run, winds calmed and humidity increased, allowing crews to attack the fire directly. Firefighters from the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands; Duchesne County; the National Park Service; the U.S. Forest Service; the Bureau of Indian Affairs; and the Bureau of Land Management responded to the blaze, which was burning in pinion-juniper and sagebrush.

Hand crews worked the fire, establishing a containment perimeter around the fire since Friday. In the early phases, two single engine air tankers dropped retardant on the fire, while two helicopters supported crews with water drops.

"Things are looking really good," said incident commander Dale Jablonski. "We even had some wind on the fire and all the containment lines held very well through it."

Jablonski expected to release all but a handful of firefighters from the state and BIA crews after Sunday. The small contingent will monitor the fire over the next few days and work it until they reached full controlled status.

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